

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BERN 00328 240726Z

15

ACTION EA-06

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 EUR-08 INR-07 CIAE-00 NSC-05

NSCE-00 RSC-01 /042 W

----- 021458

R 231634Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY BERN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 139

INFO AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

C O N F I D E N T I A L BERN 0328

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINR, PINT, KN

SUBJECT: KOREAN AMBASSADOR LEE RETURNING TO KOREA

1. AFTER LESS THEN 18 MONTHS IN BERN, AMBASSADOR LEE TONG WON IS BEING RECALLED TO SEOUL. DEPARTURE HAS BEEN POSTPONED SEVERAL TIMES ALREADY, IS NOW SCHEDULED FOR JANUARY 25. LEE'S REPLACEMENT WILL BE DR. PARK KUN, CURRENTLY DCM IN WASHINGTON.

2. AMBASSADOR LEE, A FORMER FOREIGN MINISTER AND PROMINENT POLITICIAN, HAD MADE CLEAR TO US ON PAST OCCASIONS THAT HE HAD NOT WANTED TO COME TO BERN IN FIRST PLACE AND THAT HE WAS BORED IN HIS "EXILE." HE HAD PONDERED WHETHER TO RETURN TO KOREA TO RESUME POLITICAL ACTIVITY, BUT WAS NOT SURE WHETHER TIME WAS PROPITIOUS.

3. AFTER HIS RECALL TO KOREA, AMBASSADOR LEE ATTEMPTED TO SEND HIS CHILDREN TO HIS BROTHER-IN-LAW IN THE U.S. THIS DID NOT WORK OUT AND HE THEN DECIDED TO PUT THEM INTO SCHOOL IN JAPAN. MRS. LEE HAS BEEN AILING AND UNDER MEDICAL TREATMENT IN KOREA FOR SOME TIME, BUT IS SUPPOSED TO JOIN CHILDREN OUTSIDE OF KOREA AS SOON AS HEALTH PERMITS.

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4. WE HAVE TRIED WITHOUT SUCCESS TO GET IN TOUCH WITH

AMBASSADOR LEE DURING PAST DAYS TO INQUIRE ABOUT HIS PLANS.
IT ALMOST SEEMS THAT HE IS AVOIDING US AT THIS JUNCTURE.
PERCIVAL

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: AMBASSADORS, POLITICAL EXILE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 23 JAN 1975
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: SmithRJ
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975BERN00328
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750026-1173
From: BERN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750128/aaaaayer.tel
Line Count: 64
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: SmithRJ
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 18 JUN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <18 JUN 2003 by KelleyW0>; APPROVED <30 OCT 2003 by SmithRJ>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: KOREAN AMBASSADOR LEE RETURNING TO KOREA
TAGS: PINR, PINT, KN, (WON, LEE TONG)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006